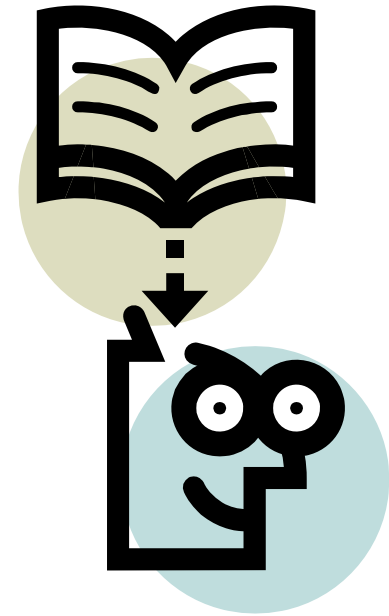


Congressional Hearing

High Costs of Textbooks

Use of Online Textbooks

- Began use of online textbooks with CISCO Academy, Microsoft Academy and 3COM Academy in 2000. We have been using this approach since then.



Reasons for Not Choosing Books

- Huge size of books
- Books become outdated quickly
- People end up with different editions
- Impractical method for reading
- Not interactive



Online Advantages

- No more huge books
- Online updates
- Everyone uses the same version
- Suited to the learning pathways of our students



Response to Virtual Books

- Enrollments are up when we use this approach
- Enrollment goes down when we use standard book approach
- May partly be due to demographics of computer networking students
- Allows for interoperability of curriculum (High School, large distances)



Other Disciplines

- Book publishers are providing hybrid approaches
- Asynchronous solutions (email, streaming video, 24/7/365 approaches)
- 2 Academies are free, one had minimal charge



Problems with This Approach

- School does not generate income from sale of textbooks
- Online classes take about 3 times as long to develop and administer. Faculty equity issue.
- Requires a technically competent support staff
- ADA access issues
- Cost



Happy Computing!

